Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12. (cancelled)

13. (New) A system for screening off an area, a partition element substantially covering a space between two upstanding carrier elements, the partition element being catchable in the carrier elements in an unstable preparatory position in which it lacks the ability to remain by its own force, and is movable therefrom to a fixedly locked position in the carrier elements, wherein the partition element includes locking means each with their guide section for interlocking engagement with each respective carrier element, in the fixedly locked position or vice versa, and each with its snap catch for retaining, on the one hand, the guide section in its position and, on the other hand, the partition element in the fixedly locked position in the carrier elements.

14. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the partition element includes two pins which are catchable in a groove in each respective carrier element or vice versa, in the preparatory position.

15. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the groove is undercut and the associated pin displays complementary configuration.

16. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the groove inclines obliquely downwards so that the pins are retained therein in the fixedly locked position in the carrier elements.

17. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the groove is undercut and the associated pin displays complementary configuration.

18. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the depth of the groove is greater than the diameter of the pins, so that these are reliably retained in each respective groove in the fixedly locked position.

19. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the snap catch includes a spring element which is actuable by an actuator device for releasing the locking means.

20. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the actuator device is disposed substantially inside the locking means.

21. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the actuator device is disposed substantially outside the locking means.

22. (New) The system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the actuator device is disposed in the carrier element.

23. (New) A method in the mounting and dismounting of a partition element on two upstanding carrier elements, where the partition element is hooked in the carrier elements in a temporary, unstable preparatory position and is thereafter either moved to a stable, mounted position in the carrier elements or is reopened completely, wherein the partition element is locked in the mounted position when it is pressed beyond the unstable preparatory position.

24. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein an actuator device is activated by a special, separate tool for releasing the partition element from the fixedly locked position.

25. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the fixedly locked position is attained by the partition element being snapped in position in the carrier elements when the partition element is pressed against the carrier elements.

26. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein an actuator device is activated by a special, separate tool for releasing the partition element from the fixedly locked position.